

Register of Historic Kansas Places

Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating individual properties and districts. The format is similar to the National Register of Historic Places form. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets. Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Dutton-Thomas-Soule Farm
Other name/site number Palmberg Farm / 091-0000-1722

2. Location

Street & number 7925 Sunflower Rd ☐ not for publication
City or town De Soto ☒ vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Johnson Code 091 Zip code 66018

3,4. Certification

I hereby certify that this property is listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

Patricia J. Lerner DSHPO 11/9/06
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

AGRICULTURE: Storage

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE: Storage

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: STONE

Walls: WOOD

Roof: Metal (kitchen section), asphalt elsewhere

Other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the State Register)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1884-1956

Significant Dates

1884

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 160 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1														
1	5	3	2	6	6	6	0	4	3	1	6	9	0	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

2														
1	5	3	2	6	6	6	0	4	3	1	6	2	6	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

3														
1	5	3	2	7	0	0	0	4	3	1	6	8	0	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

4														
1	5	3	2	6	8	0	0	4	3	1	6	3	2	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Edith Palmberg

Organization _____ Date 7/19/06

Street & number 925 West 28th Street Telephone (785) 842-7941

City or town Lawrence State KS Zip code 66046

Property Owner

Name Thane and Edith Palmberg

Street & number 925 West 28th Street Telephone (785) 842-7941

City or town Lawrence State KS Zip code 66046

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Dutton-Thomas-Soule Farm
Johnson Co., Kansas

General Description

The Dutton-Thomas-Soule property is a picturesque farmstead and surrounding farmland on a 160-acre tract located in the Kansas River valley just to the west of De Soto, Kansas (herein referred to as the "West Bottoms"). The farmhouse, a smokehouse and garage, a tool shed, a large barn, and a smaller storage shed are located at the southeast corner of 79th and Sunflower Road, on a slight ridge that cuts from northwest to southeast through the valley. The subject property lies less than a mile south of the Kansas River, and about 1.5 miles west of the town of De Soto. Two small gravel roads provide access to the property from Sunflower Road, and one of these paths provides access to the barn, located at the southeast corner of the farmstead. The trees on the farmstead date to the construction of the main farmstead buildings in 1884, and include mature elm, oak, walnut, and ash trees, as well as several trees planted more recently in the "orchard" section of the farmstead, including apple and cherry trees. Several of the largest and oldest trees surround the farmhouse to the north and west. The farmhouse is located closest to the intersection of 79th and Sunflower, and is highly visible from throughout the valley, particularly from the north and west. The entire West Bottoms extend east-west nearly 2.5 miles from Edgerton Road to the town of De Soto, and about 1.5 miles at the greatest from the Kansas River to the bluffs lining the valley to the south.

The Dutton-Thomas-Soule house is the most significant farm building on the site. This late nineteenth century, two-story house generally maintains its architectural integrity, although the roofline has been significantly altered. The farmstead has retained nearly its same appearance for the last century. Because its original location, contemporary setting, well-preserved design, materials and workmanship convey a sense of the past, the feelings and associations that provide a vivid sense of past time and place are evident. Generally, the exterior and interior details and interior plan of the Dutton-Thomas-Soule house are intact. All of the surrounding farm buildings, constructed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, are intact, with the exception of a chicken house that sustained irreparable damage from a small tornado in 1980. The barn, constructed around the time of construction of the farmhouse in 1884, has outstanding architectural integrity in particular and is visible from throughout the valley and the surrounding ridges to the west of De Soto.

Architectural history

The distinguishing architectural features of the Dutton-Thomas-Soule House are an eclectic blend of various Victorian and Italianate architectural styles popular during the 1880s. This example has three porches with Italianate trim, a kitchen roof with Victorian block modillions, distinctive doors, windows and door and window frames throughout the residence, and distinctive baseboards. Of particular note, a large spiral staircase leading from the first to second floor of the house is an unusual example of ornate Victorian staircases from the period.

As railroads spread across Kansas between 1860 and 1890, builders in the Kaw Valley region began to utilize materials from outside the region. During the late nineteenth century period of agricultural dominance in Kansas, builders preferred using wood for farmhouses. Products transported by rail

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revolutionized building in northeast Kansas and became evident in homes built during the period. The Dutton-Thomas-Soule house is an excellent example of this change. Thanks in part to the property's location about a half mile north of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe (now Burlington Northern Santa Fe) railroad running along the southern edge of the Kaw Valley between Lawrence and Kansas City, the Dutton family utilized products from well outside Kansas in constructing their home. The vast majority of the house includes pinewood was shipped to the Duttons from the woods of Michigan. The Dutton family likely utilized rail transport to provide other notable features inside the house, such as the original doorknobs, the doorway and window frames, and related ornamentation. The Duttons lived in a log cabin across Sunflower Road from the current house for a year while a craftsman built the farmhouse. The total cost of construction was \$1,000.

In Lexington Township and Johnson County in general, few buildings from the territorial and Civil War period of Kansas's history (1854-1865) have survived. Properties from the period of the county's early agricultural development (between 1866 and 1900) are nearly as rare. Properties from the nineteenth century in Johnson County have generally been demolished or considerably altered. The rapid suburbanization of the county following World War II, in particular, has led to the destruction of numerous farmsteads and various homes from the nineteenth century. Today, the suburbanized area of Johnson County covers about half the land area of the county, and plans for continued suburban development along the freeways leading south and west out of the Kansas City metropolitan area promise continued rapid urbanization of the remainder of the county in the next few decades. As the entire K-10 corridor between Lawrence and Johnson County continues to develop as a suburban region, the farm property will represent a significant historical asset for the county in the future. The City of De Soto is planning to aggressively expand residential, commercial, and industrial construction to the west, and redevelopment of the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant, located about three miles to the south of the farmstead, promises to transform the entire northwest part of Johnson County. The Soule and Palmberg families have operated the subject farm for several decades, and the farmstead represents the only remaining vegetable or grain farm based in the West Bottoms, and one of a rapidly dwindling number of farms actually based in Johnson County. While the West Bottoms has retained its agricultural nature to this point, most of the agricultural acreage in this valley, as well as most areas to the west and south of De Soto, is farmed by operators located in Douglas County or Leavenworth County.

The Palmberg family has researched the history of the Dutton-Thomas-Soule property, and has traced its ownership to a signed transfer by President Buchanan of the property from a Shawnee Indian to local interests in 1859. The Dutton farm plan and buildings are typical of a late nineteenth century farm in the Kaw Valley based on a diversified agriculture of stock-raising, grain cropping, and fruit and vegetable growing. This agriculture required a number of specialized farm buildings and structures.

Exterior

The Dutton-Thomas-Soule house features distinctive bay windows and porches fronting on both 79th Street and Sunflower Road. On the west side, facing Sunflower Road, a bay window serving the living

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room is flanked on both the north and south by small porches serving the parlor and first floor bedroom, respectively. On the north side, facing 79th Street, a bay window on the west end serves the parlor, and a more substantial porch shields the kitchen area and provides access to the north lawn. The porches on the west are somewhat smaller and do not have exterior railings, but the kitchen porch has railings on the north and east sides to provide greater privacy from the north lawn area. The two-story portion of the house includes living areas and bedrooms. The one-story kitchen extends to the east. On the east side of the kitchen, a cellar door provides access to the cellar area. On the south side, a back door and covered porch provide access to the kitchen. In all, the house has four exterior doors, including two on the west side, one on the north, and one on the south. The house is wood frame construction covered with lapped wooden (pine) siding. The house retains its original siding and its original nails. The main foundation is constructed of limestone. All of the rooms feature very tall windows common to houses built during the late 19th century. The original window frames are intact, and the exterior frames have Italianate features as well.

The house features some notable architecture. The porches feature Italianate ornamentation on the posts framing the structures. The bay windows feature block ornamentation near the rooflines and Italianate molding along the bases and windows. The kitchen roof features more elaborate block medallions along the eaves. The frames of the doors serving the parlor and the living room are more elaborate and feature windows above the doorframe area and some additional ornamentation.

Interior

The interior plan, ornamentation, walls, ceilings, and floors of the Dutton house have generally good physical integrity. Generally, the interior plan is intact. There are six rooms on the first floor, including one bedroom, and four bedrooms on the second floor, one of which now serves as the primary bathroom. Original wood lath and plaster walls and ceilings remain throughout most of the house. Wooden baseboards, window and door moldings (including saw tooth corner blocks), the spiral staircase, and other ornamentation remain intact. The original wooden floors remain, although they are covered with linoleum in the bathroom and kitchen areas.

The "official" front entrance from Sunflower Road opens from the southwest porch into a main living room on the west side of the first floor, which features a large bay window area which protrudes out nearly five feet from the remainder of the room, as well as another window to the north. Another primary entrance opens from the northwest porch into the parlor area on the north side of the first floor, which features an almost identical bay window to that of the living room that protrude outward from the parlor to the north. Notable arched entryways provide access from the living and parlor rooms to the bay window areas in each room. To the south of the living room is a first floor bedroom, which has also been used as a sewing room or study in the past. This room features two closets, windows on the south and west sides, and a small, walk-in bathroom on the north and east sides. The living room connects through a fairly sizable entryway with saw-tooth corner-blocks to the dining room, to the east. This room enjoys sunlight from a window on its south side and features a built-in china cabinet and drawers on the south wall. The dining room connects to the kitchen, to the east. This room is fairly spacious and

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includes built-in drawers and cabinets for dishes on the south wall and an adjoining pantry room. Windows are located on the north and east sides of the kitchen and the south side of the pantry. A much larger ornamented porch runs along the entire northern face of the kitchen and provides considerable shade and a nice view of the river valley to the north, toward the Kansas River.

An impressive spiral staircase with significant ornamentation, including turned balusters, rises out of the dining room and connects the first floor to the second floor of the house. The staircase terminates in a hallway framed by a vaulted ceiling connecting the first and second floor and a window on the east side, with a nice view of the valley. This hallway, and a secondary hallway to the west, connect the four bedrooms and associated closets on the second floor. The bedroom to the southeast was converted to the residence's primary bathroom upon the acquisition of indoor plumbing many decades ago and features large windows on the south and east. It also features a sizable walk-in closet. The bedroom to the north is fairly spacious and has windows to the east, north, and west, looking out across the valley. The bedroom on the west is spacious and includes windows to the south, west, and north. The interior hallway connects to the south bedroom, which is the smallest of the upstairs bedrooms and has windows to the west and south. This bedroom has a walk-in closet. An additional closet area adjoining the interior hallways serves the north and west bedrooms.

The living room, parlor, dining room, and bedrooms on both the first and second floors, feature original wooden doors, baseboards, and doorframes have decorative ornamentation. The kitchen also features original doors and woodwork, although the woodwork ornamentation in this room is somewhat less ornate than that found in the remainder of the house. The house has original tongue-and-grooved wood flooring throughout the structure. Although worn, the original dark stained finish remains on the flooring in the upstairs bedrooms and hallways. The southeast bedroom (converted to a bathroom) on the second floor and the kitchen has linoleum over the flooring. Each of the rooms has a central light fixture in the ceiling.

The cellar lies under the kitchen, dining room, and living room areas. The cellar entrance opens into this storage area from the east side of the house, and additional access is provided by stair from the pantry area on the first floor. Interior cellar walls are unplastered and the floor consists of concrete and stone. This cellar area has served as a storage area for vegetables such as potatoes and winter squash for decades.

Alterations

The most significant alteration to the house has been the replacement of the original roof over the two-story portion of the structure with a modern, asphalt shingle roof nearly ten years ago. The old roof was leaking and creating water damage to the interior and exterior of the house, and the Palmberg family was forced to replace it in order to prevent further damage. The alteration represented the removal of a hipped roof with broken eaves with a single-paned hip roof, and the important loss of cornice detail and block modillions.

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Besides the roof replacement, the other major alteration involved encasing the back porch area on the south side of the kitchen as a mudroom several decades ago. This alteration utilized ornamentation around the exterior of the mudroom enclosing to mimic the original Italianate ornamentation found around the rest of the house's exterior.

As mentioned, upon the installation of plumbing several decades ago the southeast bedroom upstairs was converted to a bathroom. The Palmberg family added a second, much smaller bathroom in the closet of the downstairs bathroom during the late 1980s to accommodate the living needs of Edith's late father, Edgar Soule, who had difficulty in his later years climbing the spiral staircase to the main bathroom. At the same time, to replace the lost closet space in this bedroom, a small closet was added in a corner of the bedroom for Mr. Soule's use.

The other alterations in the house involved normal upgrades commonly installed in farmhouses over the last century. The family covered the bathroom and kitchen floors with linoleum. The family installed propane stoves throughout the house several decades ago to replace wood stoves and more efficiently heat the house.

Outbuildings and features

Several outbuildings frame the Dutton-Thomas-Soule farmstead to the south and east of the farmhouse, including a smokehouse, tool sheds, and a fairly large barn.

The smokehouse is less than 20 feet to the south of the kitchen of the farmhouse. The Soule family used the smokehouse facilities to prepare, cook, and store farm animals including hogs and chickens until the 1960s. In recent years the family has used this structure for storage. The family added a small garage to the east side of the smokehouse several decades ago with the arrival of automobiles on the farmstead.

The barn is located at the southeast corner of the farmstead and has a very wide, sloping roof that is visible from miles around. It was built at about the same time as the farm house to accommodate horses, cows, hogs, hay storage, and other farm activities. The Palmberg and Soule families have used the barn to store hay, tools, and vegetables over the last several decades, and the barn serves as the "washing and packing" location for vegetables sold from the farm. The barn includes a large loft upstairs for the storage of loose hay, and at one time a conveyor carried hay from wagons on the first floor to the upstairs. The barn also includes small stables for horses or pigs, a lumber storage room, as well as a few other storage rooms. The family added an awning to the west side of the barn several decades ago to provide a covered pen area for hogs, and in recent years has parked garden tractors under the awning. Other than this change the barn remains in virtually its original condition.

A fairly large tool shed is located west of the barn, on the southwest side of the farmstead. It was constructed to house wagons carrying hay, but has been used to store tractors, lawn mowers, and other equipment in recent decades. This structure has some roof damage, but essentially remains unchanged to this day. One notable feature of the tool shed is three windows on the south side of the structure.

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A very small storage shed is located to the northwest of the barn. It appears to be in good structural condition, and has been used in recent years as a storage location for bushel and peck baskets. A small tornado irreparably damaged the farmstead's chicken house, to the north of the barn, in 1980.

To the south and east of the barn, a pasture area straddles a small ridge running through the center of the West Bottoms and follows it southeast to an access road that bisects the valley east-west and serves the former Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant property. To the north and south of the pasture area lies the highly fertile vegetable ground area the Soule and Palmberg families have farmed for three generations. This vegetable area extends to the west of the farmhouse area as well, and as far south as the BNSF train tracks.

A second farm-related house lies within the 90 acre Dutton-Thomas-Soule farmstead parcel, located about a city block to the south of the farmstead on the west side of Sunflower Road. This house was constructed around 1890 as a second home for family members or relatives. This homestead also includes a small garage. This house has primarily served as a rental house over the years, and the Palmbergs' youngest son currently resides in this structure. The house lacks the ornamentation and distinct Italianate features found in the larger farmhouse. However, its presence about an eighth of a mile down the road from the Dutton house helps frame the overall farm setting. The 1890 house was constructed as a house for family members, and when viewed from the main valley road (79th Street) the two residences appear to "fit" together. This house is covered in artificial siding.

The 160 acre parcel extends to the south of the BNSF tracks into the timber and bluff area running along the south side of the West Bottoms and is adjacent to a parcel of several hundred acres containing virgin woodland recently acquired by the Johnson County Park District. The 160 acre parcel includes an area along the BNSF tracks that was used as a main loading station for potatoes and other produce from the Kaw Valley onto trains during the late 19th and early 20th centuries (see Section 8). The bluffs along the southern edge of the property are quite steep because this area, along the southern edge of the Kansas River floodplain between Kansas City and Lawrence, represents the southern edge of the glaciated region of Northeast Kansas.

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Dutton-Thomas-Soule Farm
Johnson Co., Kansas

Significance

Summary

The Dutton-Thomas-Soule farm and residence, located at 7925 Sunflower Road, Johnson County, Kansas, is eligible for listing in the Register of Historic Kansas Places under Criterion A for its association with the settlement and continued agricultural history of the Kaw Valley region of Kansas, and in particular for its association with the Kaw Valley potato and vegetable industries. At this time, although the farm residence is a good example of a late nineteenth century Victorian farmhouse, both exterior and interior, the alteration of the original roof and eave detail over the main part of the house has made the house ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places at this time. However, if the house is restored to its original appearance, it will likely be eligible for National Register listing as a good example of a late 19th century, Italianate-style farmhouse from an architectural perspective (Criterion C).

Elaboration

Because of its long history in the hands of one family, the history of the Dutton property is fairly well known. Legal records trace the Dutton property back to a transfer by President Buchanan to local interests from the Shawnee Indians in 1859. At one point, the property was held by J.B. Abbott, a notable area businessman who had earlier served as secretary of the 10th district committee of the Free State party in the late 1850s and aided efforts of the Underground Railroad¹.

The first inhabitants of the present house in the 1880s were the family of D.P. Dutton, who later moved to Southern California. Little is known of the Duttons from current historical records, although it is believed the family moved to Kansas from the East armed with some degree of wealth, given the ornamentation of construction and the size of the farmhouse. Fred Thomas, Edgar Soule's uncle, purchased the farm from the Duttons around the turn of the 20th century and was one of the larger farmers in the valley. He also served as a Johnson County Commissioner for District 3 (1925-1929)². Edgar and Ruth Soule acquired the property in the early 1940s, and farmed until death. Thane and Edith Palmberg began farming with the Soules in the 1970s, and have expanded operations over the last few decades. The Palmbergs and Soules continued raising vegetables for sale at the City Market and elsewhere in Kansas City, as well as grain crops including corn and soybeans.

The family of Edgar Soule, who lived on the farm for 60 years until his death in 2000, has deep roots in the Kaw Valley. Members of the Soule family were among the first settlers in the Lawrence area in the 1850s and were active in the Free State movement and the Underground Railroad. Edgar's direct ancestors were among the first settlers of De Soto. Jonathan Soule, who settled in De Soto in 1856,

¹ Title search conducted by Edgar Soule in 1962.

² Johnson County Elections office. <http://www.jocoelection.org/History/HistoryofElectedOfficials.htm>

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established the town's first mill. Curtis Britton (C.B.) Soule, Edgar's grandfather, operated a grocery in De Soto in the 1800s.

The Dutton house was one of a handful of structures in the bottom to survive the 1951 flood, which ravaged the entire valley region between Topeka and Kansas City. At one time, eighteen houses existed in the West Bottoms of De Soto. The 1951 flood filled the entire river basin from bluff to bluff with water. The Dutton house is situated on a relatively high point in the bottom, and the family indicates the house barely escaped significant damage during the flood. The flood destroyed many old farmhouses throughout the region. Today, only seven pre-1951 houses remain in the West Bottoms. Good fortune has been on the side of the house, for in addition to surviving the 1951 flood, the house also weathered a minor tornado in 1980. The farmstead helps tell the story not only of the Kaw Valley's agricultural history but also the valley's overall history of settlement from the 1800s, through the 1951 flood, to modern times. The evolution of the farmstead from a fully diversified operation with animals in addition to crops to the modern concentration on grain crops and fruits and vegetables, including the farm's role in the valley's heyday as a potato and vegetable growing region, reflects the overall history of the Kaw Valley between Lawrence and Kansas City.

Agricultural History

The Kaw Valley was and remains one of the more significant agricultural areas in the Midwest. Prior to the rise of Idaho, California, and other states as national mass producers of agricultural goods, the West Bottoms and similar farming districts stretching along the river to Kansas City represented one of the key vegetable growing areas serving the entire region. The Kaw Valley contained a multitude of farms producing potatoes, squash, melons, tomatoes, corn, and a variety of other produce for sale in Kansas City and beyond. The City Market in downtown Kansas City, Missouri, which has been in operation since the 1850s, served as the destination for much of the produce raised in the area. The Palmbergs and Soules have sold produce raised on their farmstead at the City Market since 1928. Farmers from throughout the valley sold their produce for distribution at the City Market to cities as far away as Chicago and St. Louis, and many vegetable farms operating on the very rich farmlands of the valley floor prospered during the first half of the 20th century. Local papers from the 1930s have documented the prominence of the potato and vegetable-raising industries in the De Soto area. During the 1920s and 1930s, potatoes became so dominant in the Kaw Valley area around De Soto that the town's elevator advertised that it would no longer accept grain from farmers, and was instead focusing on servicing the potato industry in the area³. The dominance of the potato industry in the Kaw Valley is reflected in the following article, which appeared in the *Lawrence World* newspaper in the summer of 1900:

Potato digging in the Kaw Valley, like the annual overflow of the Nile, is a remarkable occurrence. In the deep sandy loam of the river valley, the Kansas potato, flourishes like the given bay tree. It is a vast amount of work to care for a potato crop, the culmination of which is digging. That work is in progress now

³ "Fire destroys De Soto feed mill", *De Soto Explorer*, January 5, 2006.

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and the valley is a scene of industrial activity. The fields are covered with piles of these Kansas beauties, and in the farm yards they approach the pretensions of the pyramids.⁴

The subject property, located in the center of the valley, with access to the Santa Fe railroad about a half-mile to the south, running along the bluffs lining the valley, was one of the key distribution centers for vegetables heading to market. Potato growers from around the valley west of De Soto loaded their goods onto trains just to the south of the farmstead, and the main weighing scales for the potato growers were located at the farmstead. There are photographs showing the loading of potatoes from horse-drawn wagons onto trains on the nearby Fred Thomas farm⁵. The Dutton farmstead has played an integral role in the potato and vegetable industry in the West Bottoms over the years. The farmstead continues to produce potatoes and other vegetables for sale in Kansas City, just as it did 25, 50, or 75 years ago.

The Dutton-Thomas-Soule farm is strongly associated with the agricultural history of the Kaw Valley region in Kansas. This property is the largest and only functional farmstead remaining in the West Bottoms area adjacent to the Kansas River northwest of De Soto. The family of the current owners has had a presence in this valley dating back to the first years of the Kansas territory in the 1850s, and the Palmbergs represent the fourth and fifth generations of the family to farm in the valley. At one time, the valley had over a dozen farmsteads and a total of eighteen houses, but following the 1951 flood and farm consolidation the Palmberg farm is the last one based in the valley, with surrounding parcels farmed by individuals from Eudora and other communities to the south and west.

The Dutton-Thomas-Soule farmstead is a strong example of a prototypical farmstead from the late 19th century in the Kaw Valley. The buildings have retained their cultural, historical and architectural values, and the farmstead has played a significant role in the evolution of the West Bottoms area over the years. It now represents one of the last farms operating in northwest Johnson County. Based upon its cultural and architectural assets, and its location in a rapidly urbanizing part of Kansas, the Palmberg family respectfully submits the property for inclusion on the Kansas Register of Historic Places.

⁴ "Potato harvest in the Kaw Valley", *Lawrence World*, July 14, 1900.

⁵ De Soto. Written and compiled by Cecile Culp.

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Dutton-Thomas-Soule Farm
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Bibliography:

Newspaper Articles:

"Fire destroys De Soto Feed Mill", *De Soto Explorer*, January 5, 2006.

"Potato harvest in the Kaw Valley", *Lawrence World*, July 14, 1900.

Books:

De Soto. Written and compiled by Cecile Culp. Johnson County Library.

Internet:

Johnson County Elections office. <http://www.jocoelection.org/History/HistoryofElectedOfficials.htm>

Other:

Discussions with the late Edgar Soule, as well as Thane and Edith Palmberg.

Title search of subject property by Edgar Soule, conducted 1962 (Kansas Title Company, Olathe, KS)

Palmberg and Soule family photos

Register of Historic Kansas Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10/11 Page 11

Dutton-Thomas-Soule Farm
Johnson Co., Kansas

Verbal Boundary Description

Parcel 1:

West half of the Northwest quarter of Section 29 (except the Burlington Northern Santa Fe right of way of 3.0 acres more or less), Township 12, Range 22, Johnson County, Kansas.

Parcel 2:

East half of the Northeast quarter of Section 30 (except the Burlington Northern Santa Fe right of way of 4.25 acres more or less), Township 12, Range 22, Johnson County, Kansas.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property was historically associated with a 160 tract. Said boundaries include all of the land historically associated with the nominated property.

Photographic Information

The following information is consistent for all the photographs:

1. Dutton-Thomas-Soule Farm
2. Johnson Co., Kansas
3. Photograph by Bob Bettis
4. July 21, 2006
5. Digital images on file at KSHS

The following information is specific to each photograph:

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Description of View</u>
1.	View of house facing southwest
2.	View of house facing southeast
3.	View of house facing east
4.	View of house facing northwest
5.	View of interior stair facing east
6.	Detail of cabinet facing west
7.	View of interior living room facing northeast
8.	Detail of light fixture in first floor east room
9.	Detail of second floor door
10.	View of upstairs room
11.	View of smokehouse facing southeast
12.	View of barn facing south
13.	View of large tool shed facing southwest

EUDORA QUADRANGLE

KANSAS

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7062 III SW
(BONNER SPRINGS)

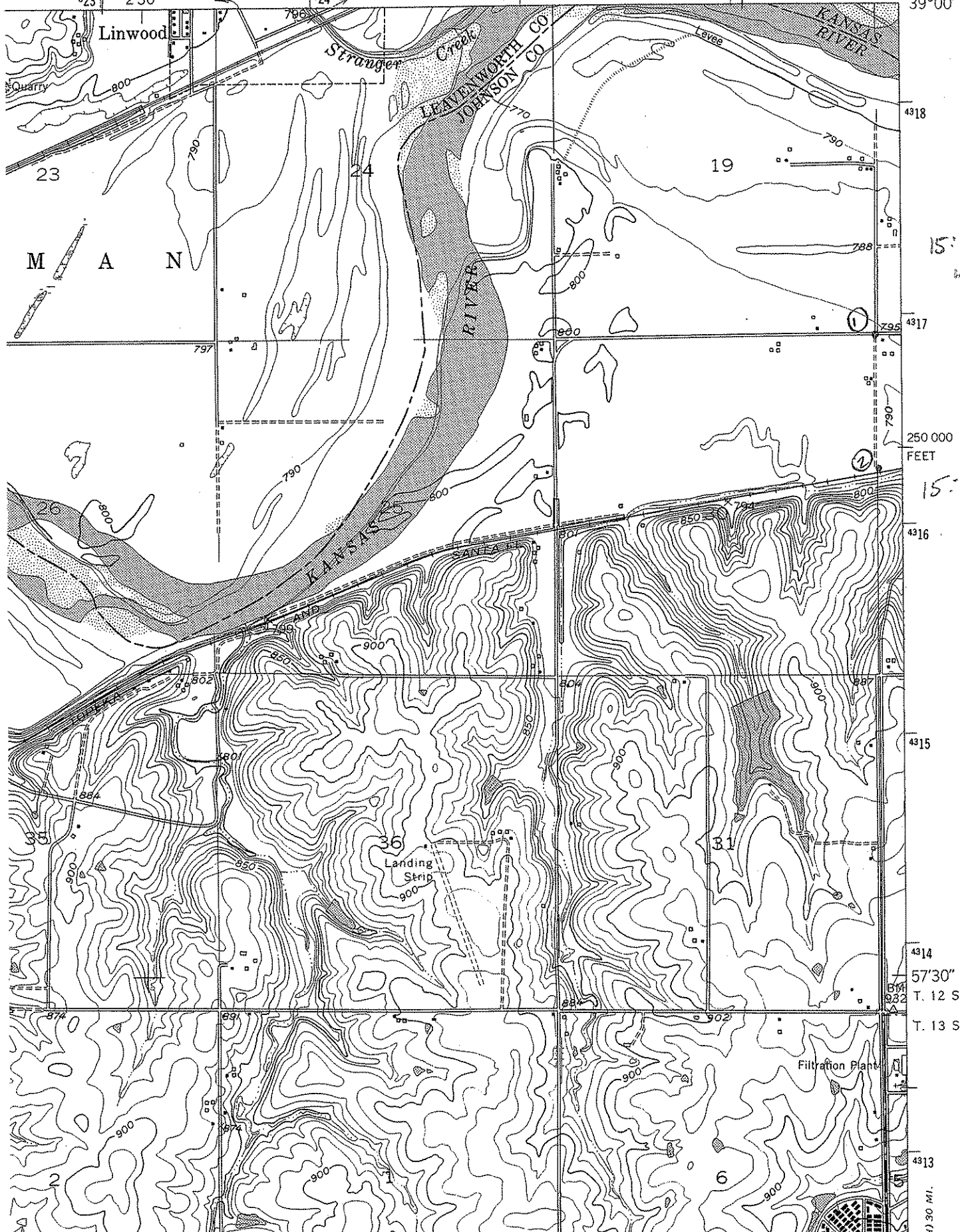
8.2 MI. TO U.S. 24 AND 40

KANSAS CITY, KANS. (CH) 29 MI.
BONNER SPRINGS 12 MI.

R. 21 E. R. 22 E.

26 2850 000 FEET

95°00' 39°00'



15: 326660
4316900

15: 326660
4316260

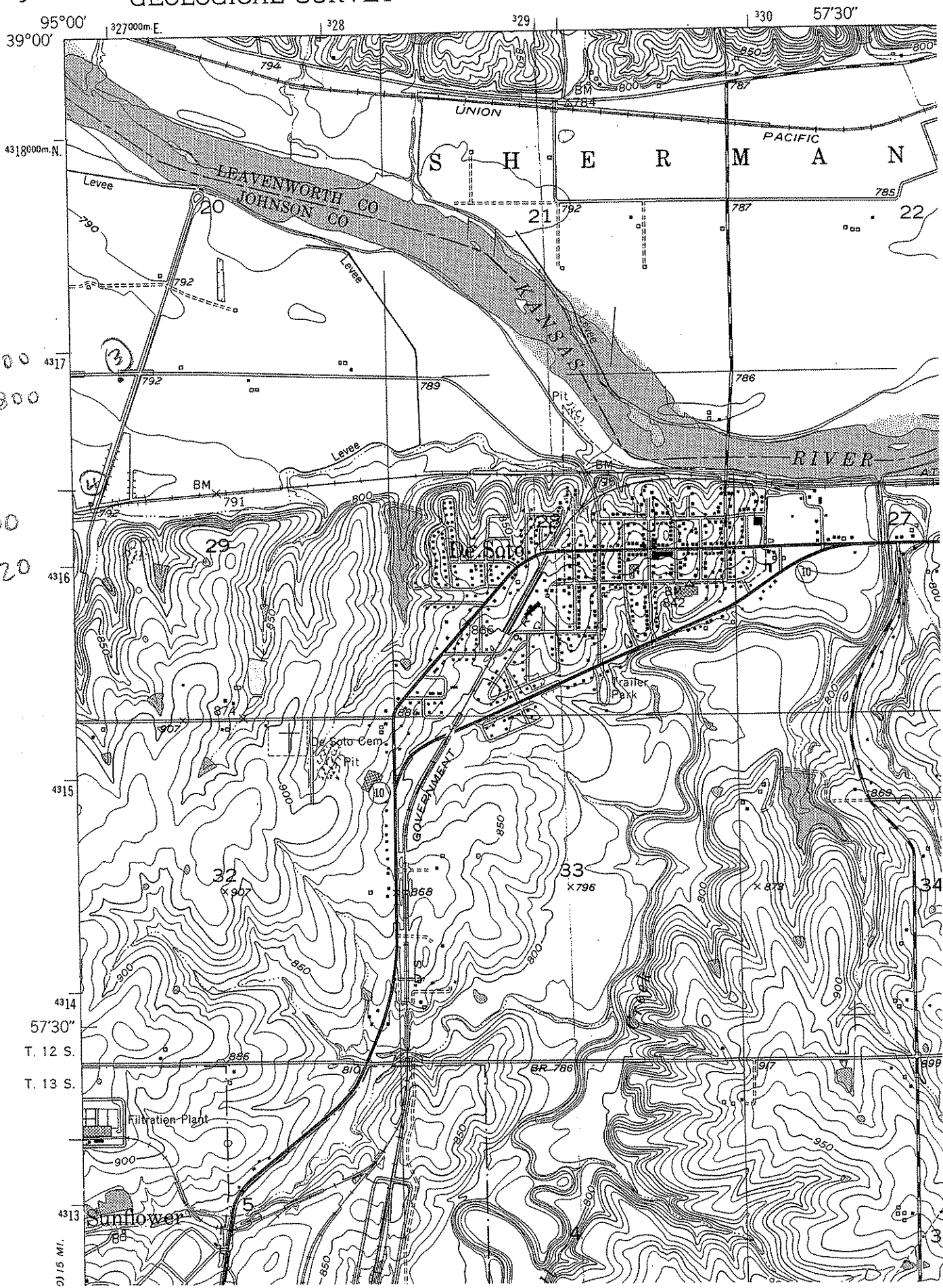
4314
57'30"
T. 12 S.
T. 13 S.

4313
2) 30 MI.

6992 11 55
(TONGANOXIE)

De Soto Road

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



KANSAS

Kansas State Historical Society
Cultural Resources Division

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

August 4, 2006

Mr. John Bartolac
Johnson County Clerk
111 S Cherry
Olathe KS 66061-3486

Dear Mr. Bartolac:

The Dutton-Thomas-Soule Farm, 7925 Sunflower Road, De Soto Vicinity, Kansas, being considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and/or Register of Historic Kansas Places. Federal regulations require that we verify the names of owners and the locations of the nominated properties.

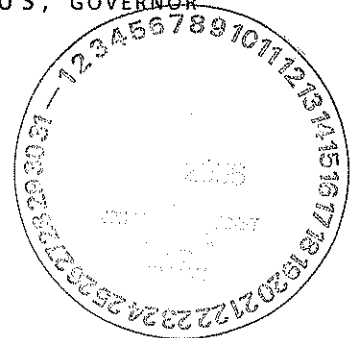
We would appreciate it if you would notify us as to who the owner of the property is and also notify us as to the lot and block numbers (legal description) of the property and the streets and property lines which bound it. Also, please include a tax map of the property, which indicates the size of the lot and the size of the nominated building and shows the north-south directionals and the streets that bound the property. Because we must meet a deadline, we ask that you notify us as soon as possible. **If there are xerox charges attached to receiving this information please contact our office in advance of any copying.**

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Patrick Zollner
Director, Cultural Resources Division
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer



Printed by:

ACTION: ? SCREEN: DINF USERID: FWC0

08/10/06 02:17:10 PM

----- DEED INFORMATION SCREEN -----

JURI= 46 YEAR= 2006 ROLL= RE PARCEL= 3F221229-1005

SITUS 7925 SUNFLOWER RD

ALTKEY 1225264

<----- OWNER INFORMATION ----->

<----- BILL INFORMATION ----->

PALMBERG, THANE R.

PALMBERG, EDITH A.

925 W 28TH ST

LAWRENCE KS 66046-4625

%OWNERSHIP 100.00 TAX UNIT 0408

MORTGAGE

LEGAL 29-12-22 60 A W 1/2 NW 1/4

EXCEPT 4.42 ACRES & EXCEPT 5.5

ACRES 50.08 ACRES

LE -0395A

RECEIVED
AUG 14 2006
Cultural Resources Division

Zone 15 326660
4316260

SW point

Endpin Quad

zone 15 326660
4316900

NW point

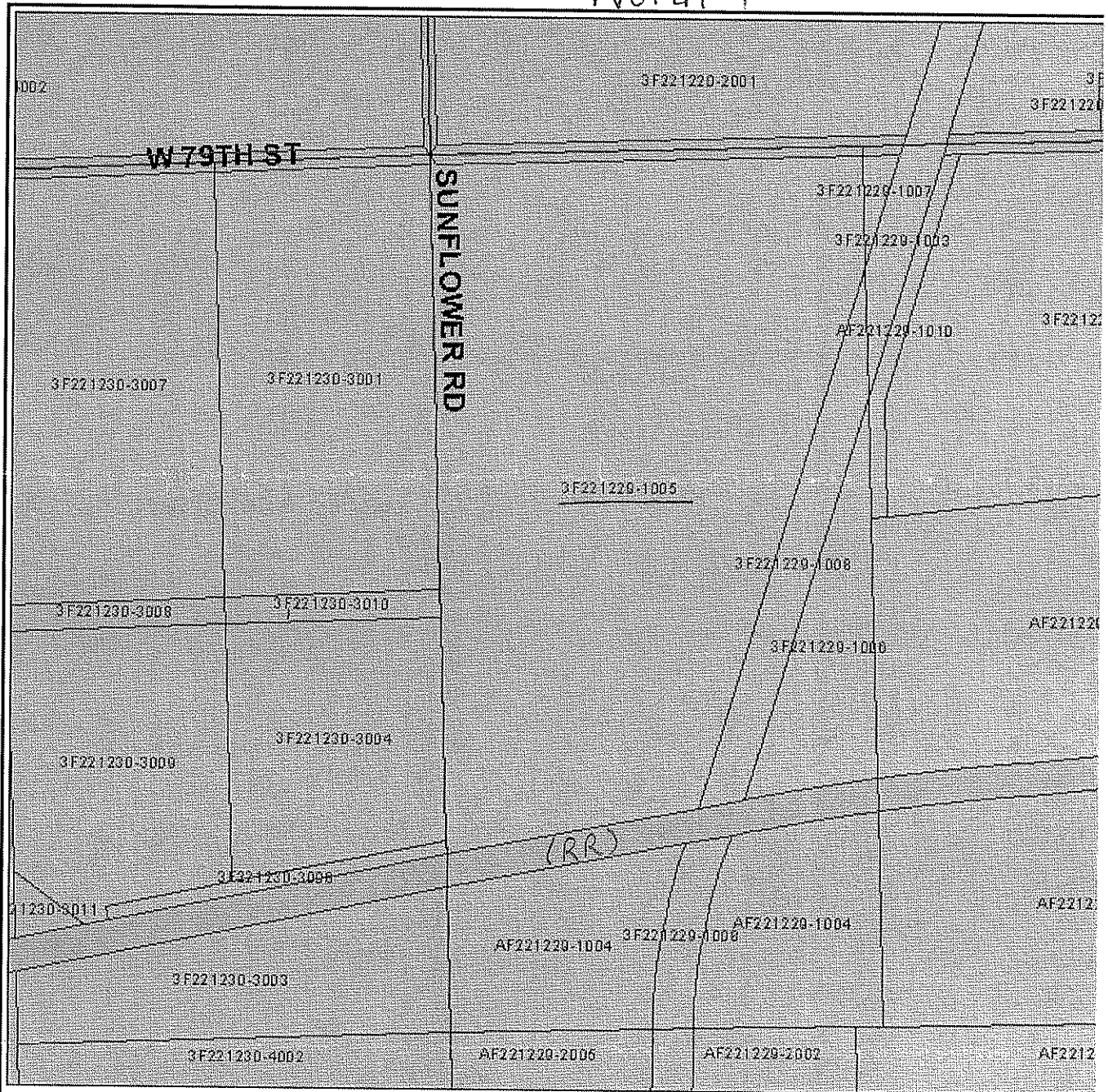
327000
4316800

NE
Desoto
Quad

326800
4316320

SE

North ↑



Johnson County, AIMS, 111 S. Cherry, Ste 3500, Olathe, KS 66061, Phone 913.715.1600, Fax 913.715.2222, Email mapper@jocogov.org



